

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 were pending in the application. In response to the office action, applicants have canceled claims 3, 11, and 19, and amended claims 1, 5, 7-9, 13, 15-17, 20, 21, 23, and 25-27. Claims 1-2, 4-10, 12-18 and 20-31 are now pending for reconsideration.

Claims 5, 7, 8, 13, 15, 23, 25, and 26 were objected to because of an informality. Applicants thank the Examiner for his careful review and have amended these claims to correct this editorial error.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter in claims 3, 5-8, 11, 13-16, 19-21, and 23-31. For business reasons not related to patentability, applicants have amended the claims to place the application in condition for allowance. Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter from claim 3. Claims 5 and 7 have been re-written in independent form, respectively. Independent claim 9 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter from claim 11. Claims 13 and 15 have been re-written in independent form, respectively. Independent claim 17 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter from claim 19. Claims 23, 25 and 27 have been re-written in independent form, respectively. The remaining claims respectively depend from allowable claims.

In view of the foregoing, the application is considered to be in condition for allowance. Early notification of the same is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions regarding the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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